

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A magnetic tape cartridge comprising:

a single reel including a circular lower flange in which an engaging portion for engaging a rotary shaft of a recording/reproducing apparatus is centered, and a circular upper flange which is arranged so as to be opposed to the lower flange and has an outer diameter larger than the outer diameter of the lower flange;

a magnetic tape which is wound between said upper flange and said lower flange; and

a cartridge case within which said single reel is rotatably accommodated and which includes a lower case into which said rotation shaft is inserted and which has a first opening at a position corresponding to the engaging portion of said lower flange, and an upper case which has a circular second opening having an inner diameter larger than the outer diameter of said lower flange but smaller than the outer diameter of said upper flange;

wherein said upper flange closes the circular second opening of said upper case to form a central portion on an upper side of said cartridge case.

2. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 1,

wherein said upper case comprises a circular cutout portion which is provided on an upper side of said upper case along said circular second opening and has an inner diameter larger than the outer diameter of said upper flange, and

wherein said upper flange comprises an annular stepped portion which is provided circumferentially on a lower side of said upper flange and fits in the circular cutout portion of said upper case from an upper side.

3. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 2, wherein a movement preventing unit for preventing relative movement of said upper case of said cartridge case and said upper flange is formed on an upper side of said circular cutout portion of said upper case and a lower side of said stepped portion of said upper flange abutting said upper side of said circular cutout portion.

4. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 3, wherein said single reel is mounted in said cartridge case by means of its dead weight and said movement preventing unit functions also by means of the dead weight of said reel and a weight of said magnetic tape wound around said reel.

5. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 1, wherein at least two reel engaging units are provided on an upper side of said upper case to engage said upper flange and prevent said single reel from being unwantedly disengaged from said cartridge case.
6. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 5, wherein said reel engaging unit includes an urging unit for urging said upper flange toward said upper case.
7. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 5, wherein engagement of said upper flange of said single reel by said reel engaging unit is released when the magnetic tape cartridge is loaded into said recording/reproducing apparatus.
8. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 1, wherein a magnetic tape drawing-out port, which becomes a passage for drawing out said magnetic tape from said cartridge case and rewinding said magnetic tape into said cartridge case, is provided on a side surface of said cartridge case at a position apart from a corner of said cartridge case.

9. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 8, wherein said magnetic tape drawing-out port is provided between a position corresponding to a screw hole used for assembling upper and lower cases and provided in the corner of said cartridge case, and a position corresponding to a reference hole provided in the vicinity of a central portion of said cartridge case.

10. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 8, wherein a central position of said magnetic tape drawing-out port is located at a position apart from the corner of said cartridge case by a distance equivalent to approximately one quarter of an edge length of the side surface of said cartridge case.

11. A magnetic tape cartridge comprising a generally rectangular cartridge case in which a single reel wound with a magnetic tape is rotatably housed,

wherein a magnetic tape drawing-out port, which becomes a passage for drawing out said magnetic tape from said cartridge case and rewinding said magnetic tape into said cartridge case, is provided on a side surface of said cartridge case at a position apart from a corner of said

cartridge case.

12. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 11, wherein said magnetic tape drawing-out port is provided between a position corresponding to a screw hole used for assembling upper and lower cases and provided in the corner of said cartridge case, and a position corresponding to a reference hole provided in the vicinity of a central portion of said cartridge case.

13. The magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 11, wherein a central position of said magnetic tape drawing-out port is located at a position apart from the corner of said cartridge case by a distance equivalent to approximately one quarter of an edge length of the side surface of said cartridge case.